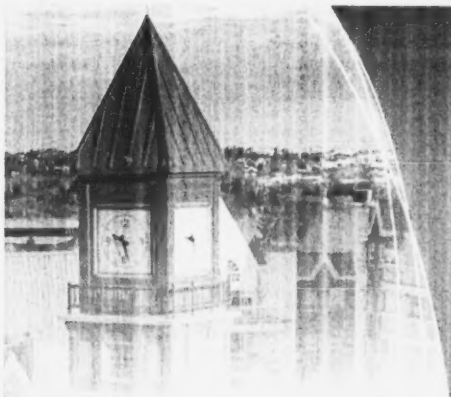
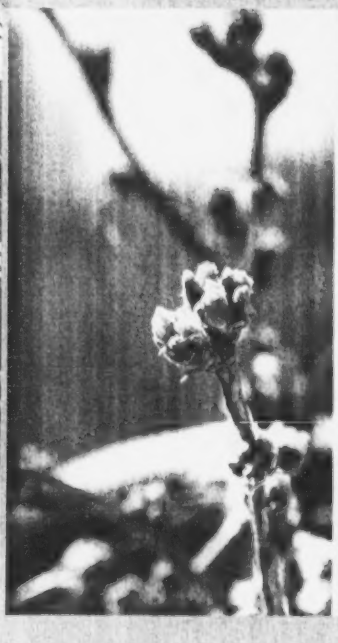


City of St. Albert
Cultivate Life

QUARTERLY REPORT 2010



FIRST QUARTER

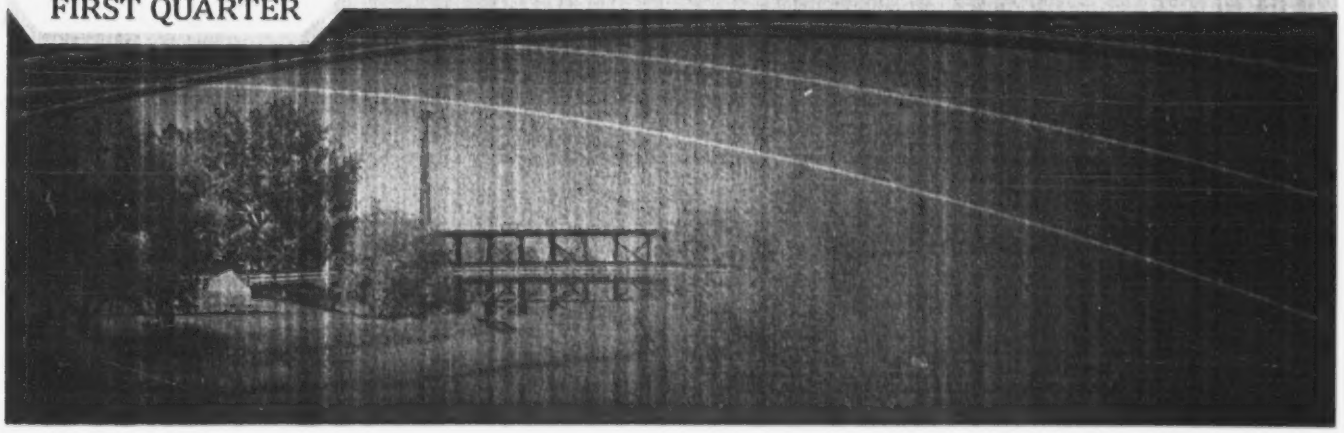


Table of Contents

Economic Development/ Non-residential Tax Base 3

- Increase Non-residential Development 3
- Tourism 3
- Branding 3
- Other Items of Importance to Council 3-4

Community Safety 4

- Implement Neighbourhood Development Initiatives 4
- Improve Traffic Safety 5
- Community Safety Performance Indicators 5
- Other Items of Importance to Council 5-6

Social and Community Development 6

- Review Results of the 40 Developmental Assets Program for Youth 6
- Complete Phase 2 of Riel Park Redevelopment 6
- Assess Smart Growth Guidelines 6
- Complete a St. Albert Plan for Seniors 6
- Encourage the Strategy and Mobilization Committee 7
- Other Items of Importance to Council 7

Financial Sustainability 7

- Review Council's Financial Policies 7
- Acquire Raw Land in the Undeveloped Lands 7

Environmental Sustainability 7

- Implement Environmental Master Plan Goals 7
- Recycling and Solid Waste 7-8
- Ensure Effective Preservation and Protection of Natural Areas 8
- Implement Parks and Open Spaces Management Plan 8

Affordable Housing 8

- Update the Affordable Housing Strategy 8

150th Year Celebration 8

- Plan the Year-long 150th Celebration Activities 8

Downtown 9

- Complete the Update of the Downtown Area Redevelopment Plan (DARP) 9

Culture, Arts and Heritage 9

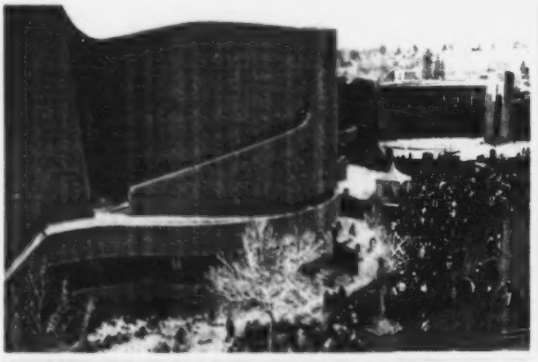
- Create a Culture Master Plan 9
- Advocate for Increased Funding 9
- Heritage Sites Master Plan 9
- Other Items of Importance to Council 9-10

Infrastructure Planning 10

- Public Transit 10

Other Items 10-13

- Services, Programs and Standards are the Best in the Region 10
- Attracting and Retaining High Quality Employees 13



Economic Development/ Non-residential Tax Base

We have more businesses and local job opportunities for St. Albertans; we have more non-residential assessment (progress towards 80/20).

Increase Non-Residential Development

Expedite Future Study Area Decisions

The St. Albert Intermunicipal Development Plan (IDP) Committee met with Sturgeon County's IDP Committee in February to discuss the potential advantages of eradicating the IDP. Pending further consideration by Sturgeon County's Council, a decision on removing the undeveloped lands from the IDP is delayed.

As part of the Smart Growth Hybrid, staff presented City Council with a recommendation to designate the west future study area and additional adjacent lands as a light industrial business park. This would meet Council's direction to establish 700 acres of industrial lands in the northwest. A final decision on this will be made in conjunction with all of the Smart Growth elements in April.

Continue Think-tank Forums

The Residential Think-tank, comprising representatives from businesses in the residential development industry, continues to meet to discuss opportunities and concerns related to residential attraction. During the first quarter, members also received an update on the Residential Lot Mix Study from staff and the group's sub-committee continued discussing marketing initiatives.

Servicing the Northeast Corridor for Future Development along St. Albert Trail

Two landowners expressed interest in providing funds to assist in the servicing of the northeast corridor. Administration is moving forward with a developer to create a conventional development model for the area and construction is anticipated to begin later in 2010.

Tourism

Develop a Hosting Strategy

Council approved the Major Events Hosting Strategy's Vision and Guiding Principles; the focus is on attracting and hosting a wide variety of events in the city. Administration is developing a related business plan for Council's approval in early September.

Branding

"The Botanical Arts City"

In February, Council adopted a new brand for the City of St. Albert. St. Albert, The Botanical Arts City, will use the "Cultivate Life" theme to market St. Albert. Members of the Brand Leadership Team, which consists of 13 community leaders, continue to act as brand ambassadors. The City of St. Albert, the Brand Leadership Team and several community groups are working together to implement and promote the brand.

City of St. Albert
Cultivate Life

Other Items of Importance to Council

Annual Business Breakfast

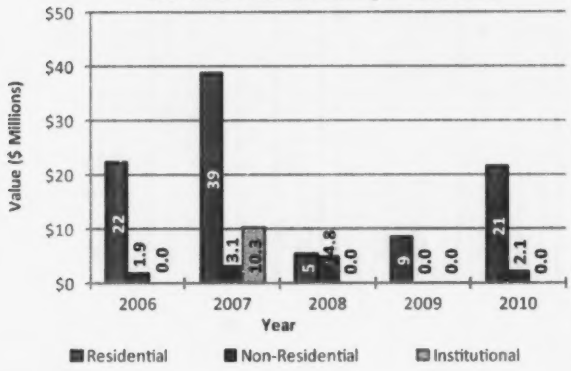
The sixth Annual Business and Tourism Development Business Breakfast was held in February.

The event aims to provide relevant business information to the City's business community, as well as assist them in making informed business and investment decisions. The breakfast featured presentations from the Mayor and Business and Tourism Development staff. This year, a presentation from Angus Watt, renowned financier, was added. Once again, attendees expressed a high level of satisfaction with regard to the quality of presentations and gained a better understanding of progress and challenges related to business in St. Albert. A total of 96 per cent of attendees agreed or strongly agreed attending the event was worthwhile.

Building Permit Volume and Revenue

Compared to the first quarters of 2009 and 2008, the value of new residential construction permits increased in the first quarter of 2010. The value of non-residential building permits is slightly higher compared to 2009; however, it is lower than numbers reported in the first quarters of 2008 and 2007.

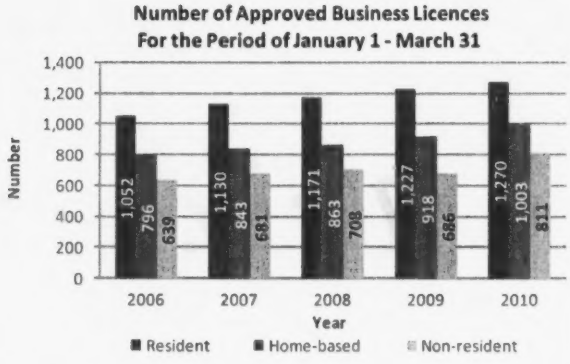
New Development Construction Value
For the Period of January 1 - March 31



Business Licences

In comparison to the first quarter of 2009, the number of business licences increased by 43 for residential businesses, 85 for home-based businesses and 125 for non-residential businesses during the first quarter of 2010. The steady increase in all three licence categories signals an increase in job opportunities in the city and a healthy degree of confidence in the St. Albert market.

Number of Approved Business Licences
For the Period of January 1 - March 31



Community Safety

St. Albert is one of the top five safest cities in Canada.

Implement Neighbourhood Development Initiatives

Creating Vibrant and Strong Neighbourhoods

The Neighbourhood Development Team is actively working in five neighbourhoods, supporting residents with concerns related to increases in vehicle theft, graffiti, vandalism, drinking in public places and other criminal activity.

The committee is working with residents in the following neighbourhoods on implementing solutions to address concerns:

- Braeside
- Sturgeon
- Erin Ridge
- Deer Ridge
- Ridgewood Terrace

Community Garden Pilot Project

The Neighbourhood Development Team received a request for support for a Community Garden Pilot Project, which would entail a partnership between the Christian Reformed Church, St. Albert Youth Community Centre and Transitions. This proposed project would provide opportunities for intergenerational and special programming, as well as enable people with disabilities to tend garden plots and supply fresh produce to the St. Albert Food Bank. The team and Administration are reviewing possible startup grants to facilitate this project.

Graffiti Removal Pilot Project

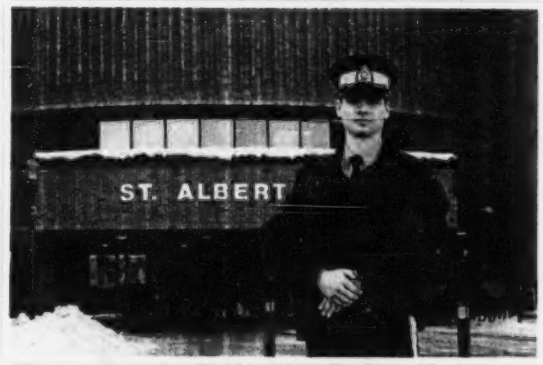
Information about the pilot project was presented at the Chamber of Commerce luncheon in March. It is envisioned that vandalism can be reduced through graffiti removal, community education and strong public support. The project goals include:

- Educate the public on the impacts of graffiti;
- Encourage and support residents and business owners in removing graffiti;
- Enhance perceptions of public safety;
- Provide sustainable cleanup solutions;
- Help strengthen neighbourhoods; and
- Reduce incidents of graffiti.

Improve Traffic Safety

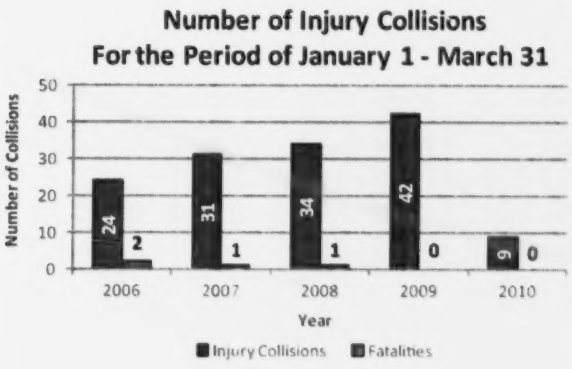
2010 Traffic Safety Plan

The RCMP and Municipal Enforcement Services have been working with city agencies to draft the 2010 Traffic Safety Plan. The plan will ensure members of the St. Albert RCMP and Community Peace Officers are working together to ensure that traffic enforcement efforts within the community are focused on reducing motor vehicle related fatalities and injuries. This plan will be reviewed and updated annually by the City of St. Albert and St. Albert RCMP.

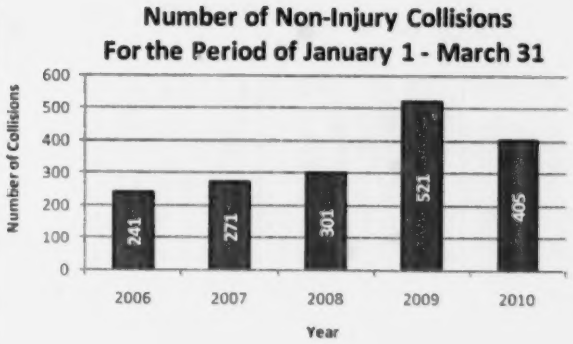


Injury and Non-injury Collisions

Compared to the previous four years, the number of injury collisions decreased significantly in the first quarter of 2010.



Compared to the first quarter of 2009, non-injury collisions decreased in the first quarter of 2010; however, the number remains higher when compared to the years prior to 2009.



Community Safety Performance Indicators

Performance Indicators

Administration is working to establish a set of benchmarks to better reflect community safety in St. Albert. Slated for implementation later in the year, the following performance indicators have been selected:

- Serious Injury Vehicle Collisions
- Motor Vehicle Thefts
- Break and Enters
- Aggravated Assaults
- Sexual Assaults
- Murders
- Robberies

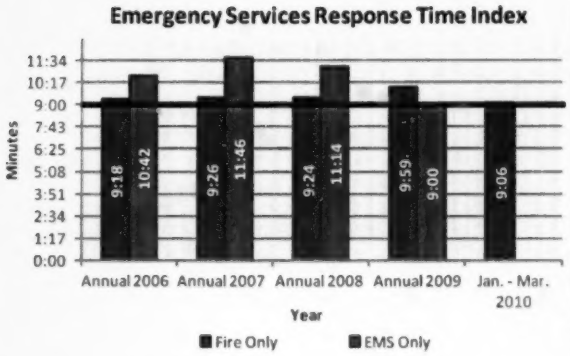
The City will analyze and compare data collected from other mid-size municipalities in Alberta, as well as Edmonton and Calgary neighbourhoods, to determine how St. Albert fares in the area of community safety. In addition, Maclean's Magazine's report on safe communities will be used to further evaluate how St. Albert ranks compared to other communities.

Other Items of Importance to Council

Emergency Response Time

The following graph shows the fire response time for the first quarter of 2010, as compared to the previous four years, as well as the emergency medical service (EMS) response time for the past four years. While the response times have decreased, the target of responding within nine minutes to 90 per cent of calls has not been met.

As of February 2010, the City of St. Albert is no longer responsible for EMS dispatch, as it was moved in conjunction with Alberta Health Services' new service delivery model. The emergency response time for EMS in January and early February 2010 was nine minutes and 34 seconds.



Target: Respond to 90% of fire and emergency medical calls within 9 minutes

Social and Community Development

Residents have a strong connection to the community and participate in the growth and evolution of the city.

Review Results of the 40 Developmental Assets Program for Youth

Work continues on promoting the 40 Developmental Assets in the community. While the Asset Development Team mainly focused on schools in 2009, the group will be working with the business sector throughout 2010 to encourage asset building in the workplace and to show how business leaders and their employees can further support the 40 Developmental Assets.

National Conference on Positive Youth Development

The Asset Development Team continues to assist with preparations related to the Helping Canadian Kids Thrive! National Conference, which is scheduled for May 2010.

Asset Awards

This event was held in early March to recognize the many community members who volunteered their time to assist with the production of a short six-video series about the 40 Assets initiative. The videos will serve to further promote the philosophy and the stories of several community members who are building assets in St. Albert's youth. This was also the first opportunity for those who participated to view the videos prior to the public launch, which is planned for the second quarter of 2010.

Junior High Visitations Program

In step with the 40 Assets philosophy, RCMP members continue to visit junior high schools to engage students in building positive relationships with police. In the first quarter of 2010, 101 visits took place.

Complete Phase 2 of Riel Park Redevelopment

Phase 2 Development

Phase 2 design work is now complete and includes significant input from key stakeholders, such as the BMX, Kinsmen and Rotary clubs. The project is currently out for tender with an anticipated closing date of May 20, 2010 and construction is expected to start in June.

Assess Smart Growth Guidelines

Council received and reviewed the proposed Smart Growth Hybrid from Administration. Stakeholders provided their feedback through a variety of input processes including an Open House, Council meetings and through correspondence. Council is expected to make a decision on Smart Growth Hybrid in April.

Complete a St. Albert Plan for Seniors

Elder Abuse Protocol Priority
(St. Albert Seniors' Working Group)

The Elder Abuse Protocol Guidelines for Action document has been produced and responder training in various levels has been provided to community agencies, doctor's office managers, health-care providers and social workers. To date, approximately 90 individuals received training.

Transportation Priority (St. Albert Seniors' Working Group)

In order to recognize volunteers who take the time to transport seniors, the St. Albert Driving Angels program was launched in February in partnership with St. Albert Seniors' Working Group, St. Albert Senior Citizens' Club, St. Albert Transit and AMA.

Information Priority (St. Albert Seniors' Working Group)

The St. Albert Seniors' Directory is now online through the St. Albert Senior Citizens' Club website and all agencies serving seniors are encouraged to provide a link to this resource through their respective websites.

Encourage the Strategy and Mobilization Committee

Strategy and Mobilization (SAM) Committee Celebration

The celebration was held on January 28, with 47 guests in attendance, including representatives from various human service agencies, local school boards and the municipal and provincial governments. The Seniors' Working Group and Youth, Child and Family Working Group were recognized for the significant accomplishments achieved to date.

Attendees learned how beneficial SAM has been in advocating for and supporting city-wide projects, as well as how the working groups' joint planning initiatives have decreased the number of committees and increased the understanding of gaps in service. SAM has also strengthened relationships, improved partnerships and increased the effectiveness in responding to the needs of youth, parents, families and seniors.

Other Items of Importance to Council

Youth, Child and Family Working Group

The Group has set its goals for 2010. One new goal is determining the level, need and accessibility of services to members of the city's aboriginal population. In addition, the group established a short-term sub-committee on "Addiction Awareness Week."

Outreach Networking Group

FCSS is bringing together the current outreach services in our community including: seniors outreach, family outreach, family and school liaison program, community liaison program and rental assistance program. The group is meeting to clarify programs, services, roles and appropriate referral processes to help streamline outreach services for St. Albert. This initiative will help address any gaps in service and ensure services are not duplicated.

Financial Sustainability

Strong financial policies and management ensure the city's sustainability.

Review Council's Financial Policies

Offsite Levy Bylaw

Council approved a new Offsite Levy Bylaw in March. A comprehensive review of the bylaw began in the fall of 2007 and considered all land within the city.

Acquire Raw Land in the Undeveloped Lands

Work continues on a plan and recommendations related to municipal land requirements. A report will be prepared for Council's consideration in June.

Environmental Sustainability

We are taking care of the environment for current and future generations.

Implement Environmental Master Plan Goals

Maintain Air Quality

Administration sponsored a meeting for the Alberta Capital Airshed Alliance's Air Quality Monitoring Task Group, as well as a regional workshop on public communication and action of air quality issues. Workshop participants included representatives from the City of St. Albert, the City of Edmonton, the City of Red Deer, Alberta Health and Wellness, Alberta Environment, Alberta Lung Association and others.

Public Education

Administration met with representatives from the City of Edmonton, Strathcona County and Leduc County to discuss a region-wide public education campaign on environmentally-friendly lawn and garden care. This campaign would expand the City of Edmonton's successful Good Growing Neighbours website and information material.) By being a partner in Good Growing Neighbours, St. Albert residents have access to environmentally-friendly lawn and garden care information and techniques.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

The inventory of corporate and community greenhouse gas emissions is in the data collection stage. Information is being gathered on electrical and natural gas usage, fuel consumption, waste generation and other areas to calculate the amount of emissions the corporation and community produce on a yearly basis.

Recycling and Solid Waste

Solid Waste Plan

A project charter has been developed with stakeholders in order to establish and implement a solid waste plan. Data has been compiled related to future landfill disposal, curbside organics collection and fully automated waste collection.

Reduce Solid Waste Generation

In comparing the data to the same timeframe last year, the first quarter of 2010 showed a decrease of 579 tonnes for the amount of solid waste collected, while e-waste decreased by

37 tonnes and the amount of recyclables collected increased by 499 tonnes. Compost is not collected during the winter; therefore, the graph shows zero in the first quarter of each year.

Ensure Effective Preservation and Protection of Natural Areas

Advocate for Lois Hole Centennial Provincial Park Development

The City is continuing to work with the Province to acquire land in St. Albert for the location of a future interpretive centre. Ducks Unlimited and the Province of Alberta are also discussing the timing for the construction of the boardwalk in the wetlands.

Implement Parks and Open Spaces Management Plan

Integrated Pest Management Plan

A project charter was developed and meetings took place with key stakeholders prior to starting work on the Integrated Pest Management Plan. The plan included the development of Wildlife Management Guidelines that were drafted and presented to Council before being referred to the Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) and City departments for review. The Integrated Pest Management Plan is currently under review by an external consultant. A draft report is expected to be ready for the Environmental Advisory Committee in mid-April or May.

Natural Areas Management Plan and Naturalization Plan

Administration continues to work on a proposal for developing a Natural Areas Management Plan and Naturalization Plan. Two naturalization pilot sites are anticipated for 2010: the Arbor Day site in Willoughby Park and Scouts and Junior Forest Wardens tree planting site in Grenadier Park.

Affordable Housing

We encourage, nurture and lead change to bring more diverse accommodations and a wide range of affordable housing options to the city, ensuring people in all age groups and socio-economic categories have the ability to live in St. Albert.

Update the Affordable Housing Strategy

Further Advance Affordable Housing Projects

Council reviewed the proposed 70 Arlington Drive project and commenced public hearings before deciding to schedule additional consultations in May. Input from the additional consultations will be shared with Council later in May before a final decision is made.

A decision was made for the City to purchase land for Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the St. Albert Housing Society's proposed Big Lake Pointe Affordable Housing Project subject to the approval of the Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs.

150th Year Celebration

St. Albertans celebrate our history, arts and culture.

Plan the Year-long 150th Celebration Activities

The 150th Anniversary Celebration Committee

The committee has moved into a new office at 50 St. Thomas Street and continues to work on volunteer recruitment. The committee met with several City departments to discuss how departments can support the celebration activities. In addition, meetings with various agencies and organizations took place to explore sponsorship opportunities. The committee has approved the mascot, which is expected to accompany a float over the summer.

Downtown

St. Albert has a vibrant downtown.

Complete the Update of the Downtown Area Redevelopment Plan (DARP)

In February, Urban Strategies Inc. hosted a workshop related to the city's downtown. Approximately 36 people participated, including representatives from downtown businesses, downtown residents, City employees and members of the St. Albert Chamber of Commerce and St. Albert Economic Development Advisory Committee. Urban Strategies Inc. also hosted a public open house at which 32 people attended. At both sessions, Urban Strategies Inc. shared three proposals with stakeholders that contained numerous ideas and concepts for enhancing the downtown. Stakeholder comments were collected and are being used to develop a final concept for the downtown.

Downtown Beautification Program

Administration re-launched the Downtown Beautification Program in March. The program is available to merchants located within the current DARP boundary and who have a storefront. The program covers perpendicular signs, beautification, street furniture and bike racks. Merchants can apply for 50 per cent funding for the cost of an approved program element, up to a maximum of $2,500 per business. The application deadline is November 15, 2010 or until all funds are committed. To date, 50 flower barrels have been ordered, one bike rack design has been approved and several businesses are considering adding perpendicular signs and bike racks.

Culture, Arts and Heritage

The community is recognized for its culture, arts and heritage.

Create a Culture Master Plan

Comprising three citizen members, the Working Committee for the Culture Master Plan has been confirmed and the Terms of Reference approved. In addition, a request for proposals to develop master plans for Cultural Services and Recreation Services was drafted and is slated to be published in April.

Advocate for Increased Funding

Provincial Budget

Alberta Culture and Community Spirit experienced a large budget cut and the Alberta Foundation for the Arts will also endure budget cuts. Administration is in the process of determining how these budget cuts will affect funding for the City, specifically for the International Children's Festival, St. Albert's Children's Theatre and the Arden Theatre.

Alberta Arts Days

St. Albert will be one of the flagship communities for the second annual Alberta Arts Days. Minister Lindsay Blackett is scheduled to make an announcement during a media conference at the Arden Theatre in April.

In addition, the federal government will be announcing the first year of "Culture Days," which will run in conjunction with Alberta Arts Days. Administration will explore additional funding opportunities for Alberta Arts Days that may be available through the federal government.

Heritage Sites Master Plan

Complete work on the Heritage Site

Delnor Construction was awarded the contract for the restoration of the Alberta Grain Company and Alberta Wheat Pool elevators for fire suppression, landscaping and the creation of an interpretive display area.

Develop a Heritage Sites Funding Plan

To determine the funding plan, assessments have been conducted for the Little White School, Banque d'Hochelaga, Juneau House and the Grain Elevators.

The budget for the heritage sites projects has been updated in the 10-year Capital Plan. In addition, project schedules have been refined to indicate appropriate timelines for design and construction.

Other Items of Importance to Council

Arden Theatre

As part of the Professional Series, 23 performances took place in the Arden Theatre; this included a performance by Tono, a group that was also featured at the opening ceremonies of the Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympics.

Public Art

Council decided to allocate $100,000 from the Stabilization Reserve to fund the rehabilitation of outdoor public art.

Celebration of the Arts

Bellerose Composite High School consulted with the City's Visual Arts staff to present their inaugural Celebration of the Arts, a collaborative effort between the literary, visual and performing arts. The program revitalized a wing of the school and will continue to create new positive gathering spaces for students in the school.

Infrastructure Planning

The city is growing; infrastructure is in place and we continue to plan for the future.

Public Transit

Implement Short-term System Improvements

Fifteen new buses were commissioned and the St. Albert Transit fleet is now fully accessible. New bus stop signs were installed at all bus stops in St. Albert; this will assist with the implementation of the "Next Bus" public information system later this year.

Plan for Long-term System Improvement

ISL Engineering continued work on developing conceptual design options for the South Transit Centre and a new Park and Ride area.

Other Items

Services, Programs and Standards are the Best in the Region

Census 2010

A full complement of census enumerators and supervisors is in place with plans to complete the municipal census between April 1 and May 7. For the first time, residents will have the opportunity to complete the census online, which is the first phase. During the second phase, enumerators will go door-to-door to collect data from residents who were unable to complete the census online.

Report to the Community

The 2010 Report to the Community was included as a pullout feature section in the St. Albert Gazette in early February. The report covered project and initiative highlights from 2009 and a summary of Council's priorities and information on specific projects and initiatives for 2010.

Aquatics Programs

Participation in swimming lessons and competitive swimming increased in the first quarter of 2010, compared to the first quarter of 2009. The number of participants in recreational swimming and swim meets decreased in the first quarter of 2010, compared to the same period in 2009.

Aquatics Programs For the Period of January 1 to March 31	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
FPRC Swim Lessons Attendance	25,840	28,336	24,451	26,728	35,371
FPRC Recreational Swim Attendance	55,009	41,829	40,420	48,753	43,178
Swim Meets Attendance	391	375	350	413	220
Competitive Swim Attendance	2,319	2,410	2,437	2,541	3,162

**FPRC – Fountain Park Recreation Centre*

Cultural Programs

In the first quarter of 2010, participation numbers for St. Albert Children's Theatre increased compared to the previous year, while participation in performing arts decreased. This is due, in part, to a shortage of qualified instructors for Hip Hop classes, which led to their cancellation, and low registration numbers for the Acting Up Class.

The following table shows participation numbers for Cultural Programs for the first quarter of 2010.

Cultural Programs For the Period of January 1 to March 31	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Visual Arts Programs*	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	190
Performing Arts	315	275	241	223	134
St. Albert Children's Theatre	26	27	54	67	81
Arden Theatre Total Participants	20,340	16,604	12,002	14,942	15,369

**Visual Arts Program participants were tracked using a different method in previous years; therefore, numbers cannot be compared.*

The following table shows Servus Place participation for the first quarter of 2010.

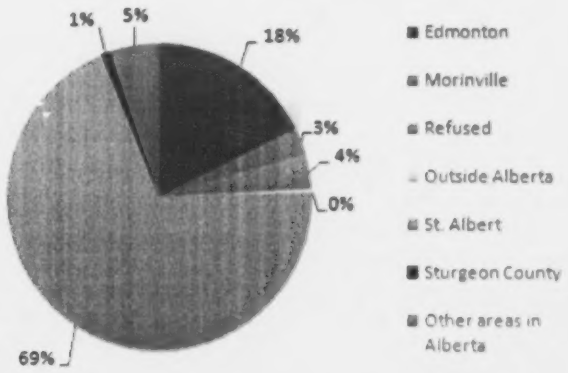
Servus Place Participation* For the Period of January 1 to March 31	2008	2009	2010
Average Memberships per Month	7,902	7,563	7,696
Paid Day Admissions	28,463	37,327	41,416
Fitness Centre Users	85,821	105,589	106,682
Child Minding Attendees	2,662	3,173	2,845
Water Play Park Users	61,443	67,351	80,836
Hours of Rented Space	4,123	4,383	4,815
Fitness Registered Program Participants	7,067	8,812	10,377
Fitness Drop-In Program Participants	7,885	9,020	10,923
Recreation Registered Program Participants	2,167	1,586	1,368
Recreation Drop-In Program Participants	3,805	4,993	7,277
Community Recreation Registered Program Participants	n/a	2,923	4,157
Community Recreation Drop-in Program Participants	n/a	1,164	820

**Servus Place was using a different system to collect data in 2007. The facility opened in October of 2006.*

Servus Place Day Admissions – Postal Code Breakdown

After the first quarter of 2010, Servus Place is reporting that 69 per cent of members are St. Albert residents. Membership is sorted by postal code in the following pie chart:

Servus Place Day Admissions - Postal Code Breakdown For the Period of January 1 - March 31, 2010



Servus Place Highlights

During the first three months of operation in 2010, Servus Place is performing slightly ahead of budget. Revenue for the first three months is $1,840,281, exceeding budget by $70,681 (4 per cent). Expenses are $1,883,118, which is under budget by $102,082 (-5.1 per cent). The year-to-date cost recovery is 98 per cent. In quarter one, the average number of memberships per month was 7,696 with annual memberships making up 65.2% of the total. Membership revenue is $674,199, which is over budget by $18,799 (2.9 per cent). The number of day use passes in quarter one is 160,714, which is 6 per cent higher than the same period last year.

The fitness centre experienced 106,682 accesses in the first quarter of 2010, with a daily average of 1,152. In the first quarter of 2010, the Landrex Water Play Centre saw 80,836 users. High attendance occurred on February 14 and 15 when the facility saw more than 1,800 patrons, March 20 with 1,784 patrons and March 30 (spring break week) with 1,940 patrons.

Servus Place - Fitness and Wellness Centre Expansion Study

The request for proposal was published for the Functional Planning-Conceptual Design for the Fitness and Wellness Centre Expansion. CEI Architecture Planning Interiors has been selected to complete the study by June 2010.

Events Hosting at Servus Place

The following special events took place in the first quarter of 2010:

- John Reid Memorial Hockey Tournament
- Minor Hockey Week Tournament
- Jujie Luan Open Fencing Tournament
- SASA Family Day Soccer Tournament
- Slush Cup Annual Indoor Soccer Tournament
- Alberta Indoor Soccer Provincial Championships
- Alberta Novice Pee Wee Hockey Championships

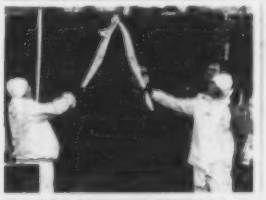
City Supported Special Events

The City supports numerous special events throughout the year. Community events supported by the City during the first quarter of 2010 include:

- Heritage Lakes Community Association Family Day
- STANSKI Family Day Loppet
- Franco-Albertan Flag Raising Ceremony

Olympic Highlights

On January 10, the Canadian Women's Olympic Hockey Team played the St. Albert Midget AAA Raiders in front of a sold-out crowd in Servus Place's Performance Arena.



More than 500 people visited Servus Place on January 12 to have their photos taken with a prototype of the Olympic Torch, courtesy of MP Brent Rathgeber.

St. Albert hosted an Olympic Torch Relay celebration on January 13. The festivities attracted thousands of St. Albert residents to the downtown core where they participated in various winter activities before welcoming the Olympic Torch to St. Albert. City staff, several community organizations and many volunteers ensured the event was a success.

Recreation Infrastructure Canada (RinC)

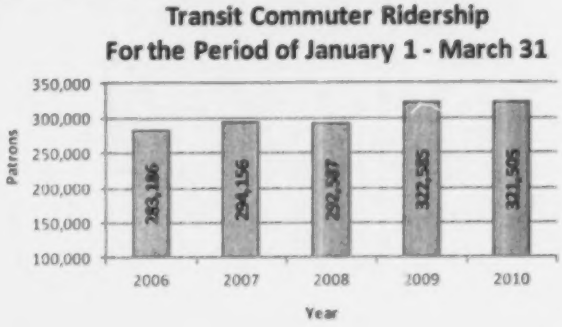
The City received two grants; $83,250 for the Fountain Park Recreation Centre Filter Replacement Project and $116,000 for the Akinsdale/Kinex Arena Renovation.

Dog Park Open House

An open house was held on February 24 to gather public input on the proposed Levasseur Dog Park. In total, 102 people attended the open house. Attendees preferred the option that included a chain-link fence, parking, benches and landscaping.

Transit Commuter Ridership

Transit commuter ridership was slightly lower in the first quarter of 2010, compared to the first quarter of 2009.



Municipal Enforcement Services

The following table represents the reported incidents for St. Albert in the first quarter of 2010 and the three previous years. The number of incidents decreased compared to the first quarter of 2009, except for Animal Calls, Assists/ Warrants and Waste/Unsightly/Weed/Environment infractions.

Incidents	2007	2008	2009	2010
Animal Calls	161	184	121	166
Misc. Bylaw	27	45	29	25
Misc. Prov. Statute	5	0	6	4
Snow Removal	83	73	158	33
Traffic Bylaw/Parking	348	378	390	308
Assists/Warrants	14	18	10	19
Waste/Unsightly/Weed/Environment	32	33	26	26
Traffic Safety Act	87	88	72	70
TOTAL—Reported Incidents	**757**	**815**	**812**	**661**

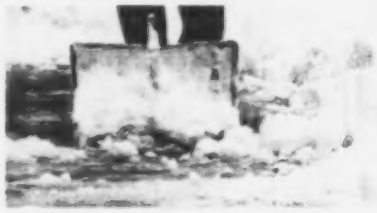
** Data for 2006 is not available.*

The following table represents the number of charges in St. Albert for the first quarter of 2010 and the four previous years. The number of charges increased in all categories except Non-moving and Bylaw, with the most significant increases in Moving and Parking charges.

Charges For the Period of January 1—March 31	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Moving	655	279	235	148	558
Non-Moving	113	203	197	161	92
Parking	736	717	552	814	889
Bylaw	59	56	49	48	43
Other	2	2	6	2	3
TOTAL—Charges	1,565	1,257	1,039	1,173	1,585

Community Standards Bylaw

The Community Standards Bylaw was presented and approved by Council in March. This bylaw will add clarity and strengthen enforcement capabilities relating to icy sidewalks and to properties and buildings that are deemed nuisances or unsightly.



2009 Assessment Roll

The 2009 Assessment Roll was finalized in February and submitted to the provincial government for audit. The 2009 Assessment Roll uses a valuation date of July 1, 2009 and forms the basis for the 2010 tax levy distribution in May.

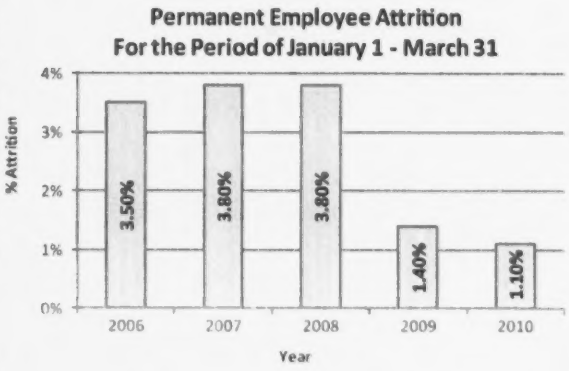
Taxable Assessment Base

The total taxable assessment base declined 6.64 per cent for the residential portion and 6.73 per cent for the non-residential portion. The assessment base measures the change in market value from July 2008 to July 2009. Tax rates will be set in early May and notices mailed out to residents at the end of May.

Attracting and Retaining High Quality Employees

Staffing and Recruitment

The employee attrition rate continues to decrease compared to previous years. The employee attrition rate for the first quarter is 1.1 per cent, compared to 1.4 per cent in 2009.



Safety Statistics

In the first quarter of 2010, the Injury Frequency Rate decreased, while the Injury Severity Rate increased when compared to the same timeframe in 2009. For that same time period, statistics for motor vehicle accidents decreased.

Definitions
Injury Frequency Rate = # of injuries x 200,000/total Hours Worked
Injury Severity Rate = # of Days Lost x 200,000/Total Hours Worked